



Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

March 29, 2016

Dear Neighbors:

UPDATE ON THE BALDWIN HILLS COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT

This letter provides an update on the implementation efforts for the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District (CSD) that have taken place since my last correspondence in November 2014. To review, the CSD was adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 2008 to monitor and regulate oil drilling and related activities within the Inglewood Oil Field in the Baldwin Hills area. As you may be aware, Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas acquired the rights for the Inglewood Oil Field from the previous operator, Plains Exploration & Production, in 2013.

The County has remained active in ensuring that the oil field operator, Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas, meets all of the requirements established by the CSD to minimize nuisance impacts to the surrounding communities. This has been accomplished through measures such as a 400-foot buffer between drilling operations and sensitive areas such as residences or parks, air quality monitoring at the drill rigs, reduction of noise levels, and an annual drilling and monitoring plan reviewed by the County. Since the inception of the CSD, 127 new wells have been drilled without incident through diligent monitoring by the County and other regulatory agencies. To date, no new wells have been drilled since June 2014. Updates regarding the CSD may be found online at the County's website planning.lacounty.gov/baldwinhills or at the operator's website inglewoodoilfield.com.

With the implementation of Senate Bill 4, stricter state regulations have been enacted to monitor and report hydraulic fracturing and other well stimulation treatments within California. As of July 1, 2015, this legislation requires operators to obtain a permit from the Department of Conservation Division of Oil Gas and Geothermal Resources prior to hydraulically fracturing a well. ***I would like to reaffirm that no wells are currently being hydraulically fracked within the Inglewood Oil Field, and the 2016 Annual Drilling Plan does not include the hydraulic fracturing of any new wells.***

The CSD also requires a comprehensive review of the performance of the CSD to determine if the provisions achieved the objective of protecting the comfort, health, safety, and general welfare of people living, working, and recreating in the surrounding areas. The first review, known as the Periodic Review, was completed in September 2015. The report found that no modification to the current language of the CSD was recommended, but identified ten areas to strengthen current implementation procedures. These recommendations are in various phases of consideration or implementation, and more information can be found online at planning.lacounty.gov/baldwinhills/review.

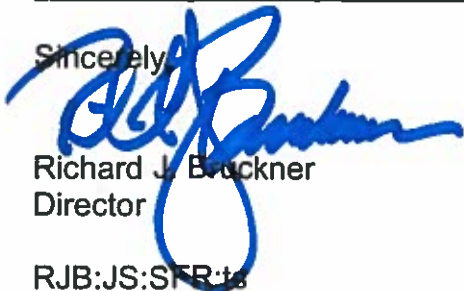
In February 2015, a supplemental air quality study was completed to address concerns about potential acute and chronic exposure to air contaminants from the Inglewood Oil Field. The study included monitoring of air quality around the oil field for one year, from November 2012 through November 2013. A report which analyzed the corresponding data, found no significant risk level regarding diesel particulate matter and that no other pollutants have strong statistical evidence of chronic or acute risk resulting from Oil Field operations. The report may be found online at planning.lacounty.gov/baldwinhills/document under the "Air Quality Monitoring Study" heading.

As part of the requirements of the CSD, the operator is also required to improve the appearance of the property through general tidiness of equipment and operations, painting, and landscaping. To date, the operator has continued to maintain the property in an orderly manner and has ensured that all equipment is painted a uniform color. The operator has completed the required landscaping for four of the planned seven phases consisting of areas along La Brea Avenue, La Cienega Boulevard (north of Stocker Street), and behind the Lewis Homes tract. The landscaped improvements have created immediate visual enhancements along these perimeter areas and with the completion of the final landscaping phases in the next few years, the remaining areas will have noticeable improvements as well.

The Baldwin Hills Community Advisory Panel (CAP), comprised of community stakeholders, continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss current operations, concerns, and future plans of the oil field. Continued input by community stakeholders for the County and for the operator is encouraged and all are welcome to attend each meeting. Updates regarding the CAP meetings, upcoming dates and locations may be found at planning.lacounty.gov/baldwinhills/cap.

If you have any questions regarding the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District please do not hesitate to call Timothy Stapleton at (213) 974-6453 or by email at tstapleton@planning.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

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